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CURRENT SUPPORT BRIEF

NO OVERALL IMPROVEMENT IN EUROPEAN SATELLITE AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION IN 1961

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NO OVERALL IMPROVEMENT IN EUROPEAN SATELLITE AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION IN 1961

European satellite gross agricultural production in 1961 failed to achieve planned goals and in East Germany, Hungary, and Bulgaria fell below 1960 levels. Unfavorable weather conditions adversely affected the level of production except in Poland and Albania, but of equal importance were the difficulties associated with collectivization, especially in East Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary. In sharp contrast to the overall trend in the satellites, Poland and Albania achieved a substantial increase in agricultural production.

Polish agricultural production in 1961 benefited from generally favorable weather and extra efforts of the private farmers, which resulted in record levels of production being achieved for the second successive year. The increase in Albanian production was due largely to more favorable weather than in 1960, a year of severe drought.

Only the Polish consumer can look forward to an improved diet in 1962. Other satellite consumers, who experienced food shortages of some kind during 1961, can look to a worsening supply situation in the coming months, even though the satellites will probably increase their food imports in 1962. The only foods which may be in adequate supply are bread and sugar. East Germany, normally dependent upon imports for a large share of its food supplies, will suffer the sharpest drop in the quality of the consumer's diet unless food imports are stepped up.

Gross Agricultural Production

The 1961 agricultural goals for the satellites proved to be once again over-optimistic, except for Poland and Albania. The level of gross agricultural production remained practically unchanged from 1960 in Czechoslovakia and Rumania (see Table 1). Output in Bulgaria and Hungary fell by an estimated 2 percent and in East Germany by 5 percent. Favorable weather and increased use of fertilizer combined to help Poland achieve a record agricultural production. Production in Albania, in spite of summer drought, increased 15 percent above last year's level, exceeding the planned average annual rate of the Third Five-Year Plan, but was below the good year of 1957.

Crop Production in 1961

In 1961, adverse weather conditions, such as a late spring, floods and droughts during the summer, plagued farmers throughout Eastern Europe. Estimates of the 1961 grain harvest in the European satellites indicate that it was down slightly below 1960 (see Table 2) to about 43 million tons. The production of bread grains (wheat and rye) showed an increase of about 6 percent while production of coarse grains (barley, corn, and oats) declined more than 8 percent. Of the major grain producers only Poland showed a substantial increase over 1960. The Polish grain harvest set a postwar record, exceeding the previous year's good crop by 9 percent, while grain production in Albania exceeded the previous year's poor production by 31 percent. The grain harvest in East Germany, Hungary, and Bulgaria were from 11 percent to 16 percent below the 1960 level. In Czechoslovakia and Rumania the yields of some grain crops were up while others were down. As shown in Table 2, potato production declined in Bulgaria, East Germany, Hungary and Rumania, but there were significant increases in Albania, Czechoslovakia and Poland so that total satellite production approximated that in 1960. Total satellite production of sugar beets

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decreased about 12 percent in 1961 as compared to 1960; in Poland and Albania, however, production increased 6 percent and 17 percent respectively.

Production of most other crops harvested in the late summer also declined in 1961. Vegetable production exceeded the 1960 level in Bulgaria, Poland and Albania, but elsewhere the dry summer reduced yields considerably. Oilseeds and forage crops in the southern satellites were adversely affected by the dry summer. Tobacco production throughout the satellites was significantly below 1960 levels because of the outbreak of blue mold, a fungus disease. Cotton production probably was down in Bulgaria but reports indicate a good crop in Albania.

Livestock Production

Estimates of livestock numbers in 1961 indicate progress in Poland and Hungary, a setback in Czechoslovakia, virtually no change in Albania and East Germany, and only moderate gains in Bulgaria and Rumania (see Table 3). In Hungary and Rumania some progress was made in building up collective farm herds. In Bulgaria cattle numbers rose by 9 percent, reflecting the continuing efforts to expand cattle herds. In Poland, increased fodder supplies--home-produced and imported--and favorable prices permitted a build-up of livestock herds, 5 percent for cattle and 7 percent for hogs, and encouraged increased meat production. Sheep numbers in Czechoslovakia and Poland fell by 10 percent and 4 percent respectively, a continuation of postwar trends.

Total satellite output of meat in 1961 increased about 6 percent (see Table 2). In Rumania, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Albania there was little or no change in meat production. In Bulgaria and Hungary, where there was a build-up in cattle and hog numbers in 1960, heavy slaughtering occurred in the latter part of 1961 when prospects for corn production became unfavorable, contributing to an increase in meat production of 7 percent and 16 percent respectively. This will adversely affect the number of slaughter animals available in 1962. Poland's increased meat production of 11 percent can be attributed to larger inventories and to the favorable price and fodder situation.

The volume of milk produced in 1961 in the Satellites probably did not change appreciably from 1960. Procurement of milk in the first half of 1961 was reported to be significantly higher in Albania and Bulgaria than in 1960 but tapered off in the second half of the year. In Czechoslovakia, Rumania, and Hungary milk production probably remained at last year's level while a drop occurred in East Germany as fodder deficiency reduced milk yields. Only Poland claimed an increase in milk production.

Outlook for Food Availabilities

Because of the mediocre performance in Satellite agriculture during 1961, no basic improvement is expected in the per capita availability of food during 1961/62 except possibly for Poland. By 1 February 1962 shortages of livestock products--meat and butter--were reported in East Germany, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia. Unless larger imports of livestock products are forthcoming, market availability will probably worsen before it improves. Low production will result in the continued shortage of potato supplies in East Germany, Hungary and Rumania. Vegetables and fruits are also expected to be scarce by early spring in Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary and Rumania. Bread and sugar are the only foods expected to be in sufficient supply to meet demands during the next few months.

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The average per capita availability of food in terms of calories will continue at a satisfactory level. However, the quality and variety of the diet will decline compared to 1961--except in Poland. Increased imports and/or cut backs in exports of livestock products, vegetable oils and other quality foods probably will not be sufficient to prevent increased consumer dissatisfaction during the coming months.

Table 1

GROSS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN THE EUROPEAN SATELLITES


	<u>1961 Planned increase</u>	<u>1961 Achievement (Estimate)</u>
--- Percentage change from previous year ---		
Albania	11.5*	15
Bulgaria	10-15	-2
Czechoslovakia	7.1	0
Hungary	7.9	-2
Poland	4.3	6**
Rumania	19.0	0
East Germany	NA	-5

* Annual average rate of growth derived from Third Five-Year Plan 1961-65.

** Poland officially claims a 10.3 percent increase.

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Table 2

1961 PRODUCTION OF SELECTED CROPS AND MEAT
IN THE EUROPEAN SATELLITES

	<u>Grain</u>	<u>Potatoes</u>	<u>Sugar beets</u>	<u>Meat</u>
	--- Percentage change from 1960 ---			
Albania	31	30	17	0
Bulgaria	-16	-25	-15	7
Czechoslovakia	4	11	-25	1
East Germany	-12	-25	-18	2
Hungary	-11	-37	-30	16
Poland	9	10	6	11
Rumania	-3	-2	-15	2
European Satellites	-1	0*	-12	6

* Less than 1 percent.

Table 3

CHANGE IN LIVESTOCK NUMBERS*, EUROPEAN SATELLITES, 1961

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Hogs</u>	<u>Sheep</u>
	--- Percentage change from 1960 ---		
Albania	-1	1	0**
Bulgaria	9	0**	3
Czechoslovakia	-2	-2	-10
East Germany	-2	3	0
Hungary	-1***	11***	11***
Poland	5+	7+	-4+
Rumania	1	5	-1

* End of year census unless otherwise stated.

** Less than 0.5 percent.

*** March census.

+ June census.

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